On a dark and stormy night, a creature returned to its house. Its shiny hooves glistened in the rain as its legs moved across the wet Kansas grass. Arriving at its home, it opened the door and saw the big red button on its table. He thought about all the planning and work that had gone into this one project and paused to consider whether it was worth it. Using one of his human arms he pushed the button. Nothing happened. He turned on the TV. After a few moments, the channel was overrun with a breaking news screen. The broadcaster said, "We have an odd situation. Scientists are reporting that Antarctica seems to be... melting... and quickly! The KGB has also reported a massive amount of weapons that seemed to have disappeared without a trace. The only thing they discovered after an inspection was one pair of dog and one pair of cow prints, so this makes one think: could these crimes be linked? We will continue reporting on this soon." The creature switched off the TV and grinned. A beagle walked up next to him, and said, "Well, that's phase one completed." He looked out the window and frowned. "Do you think anyone will come for us?" "The Russians might," said the cow with human arms. "You think so, Potato Skin?" inquired the beagle. "You saw the news. They saw our prints. It will only be a matter of time before we are connected to this crime." "We should leave then, shouldn't we?" The dog asked nervously, "Soon Billy. Gather your things."

Potato Skin and Billy Bob were currently one of many empty suburban houses in a new block, one of 126 blocks they had built in rural Kansas, just outside New Burdett, Kansas. They had built these here because Billy, paired up with AI, had calculated that if Antarctica melted, or were melted using certain weapons, this area would not be covered by the rising seas. The rising seas would, however, displace a large number of people from their homes. These people would want a place to live, and the duo had built enough shelter to house over 3,500 people, assuming two lived in a house. This cost them more than 1.91 billion, or almost half a billion dollars in 2024 money. However, they would certainly make their money back when they opened up for sale. They had acquired this money through robbing banks, selling arms, and placing bets that banks would be robbed, but

mostly by investing smartly in chip manufacturing companies before 2049. Crime turns out to be easy when everyone thinks you're a dumb animal.

The next morning Billy turned on the news to see a picture of a cow with arms! The newscaster explained, "This was a picture taken by a businessman in Kansas. The villagers said he was crazy, but when the Russians caught word of it, they came to the town quickly and took the photo. After we scoured the village for more evidence, it seems that nothing else has been found. Stay tuned for more updates." Billy comes into Potato Sack's room and says "They got your picture." With a sigh, Potato Sack says "Well, then we should get going." Within an hour they were in their flying car and were headed towards the ocean to check on the sea levels. After a long trip, they came to the new coastline. The destruction was immense. Vehicles, refugees, and debris were everywhere. And water covered sixty miles past the ocean. "Good progress," said Billy. "Indeed," replied Potato Sack, "We have come a long way since the lab," said Billy. "We are close now to owning it ourselves," replied Potato Sack.

Together, they thought back to when Potato Sack had been created in a lab. Billy Bob Beagle had been the scientist's loyal pet who had been given a human brain. That is, he was loyal until he saw the horrible things his master did. One day, the dog broke all the animals out. Potato Sack, a cow with an extra set of human arms and a human brain, stayed with Billy, and they decided that they needed to destroy the lab. Their plan for this was to make billions on the houses, and then use the money to buy the company out. Once this was completed, they could destroy the buildings without everyone discovering who they were.

On their way back they checked their reality site to see hundreds of offers already on the new houses in town. Billy said, "We already have tons of offers! Soon we will have sold all of our property!" All that day they

sold properties. Since housing was now so desirable, they charged premium prices, and made 165 percent profit on each house! By the evening they had sold all the houses, and gotten 4.95 billion, 3.04 billion of which was profit. This was enough money to buy up the lab, so they got into their flying car and headed to the lab owner's house. It was only a 15-minute flight. They offered him their money and he graciously accepted.

After they gathered the leftover explosives from the Antarctica operation, they headed for the lab. Arriving, they each got a few boxes of dynamite, just enough to destroy the lab quickly. They entered, planted the explosives, and got out 20 minutes later, leaving a trail of detonation cord. As they were heading out, they saw some very official people with the scientists. They stopped to listen and heard one say, “We are looking for your dog,” The scientist said, “He ran away years ago,” They replied, “ Have you any idea of his whereabouts?”, “No,” said the scientist. “Come on,” says Billy. “Let's get out of here!” “Right behind you,” said Potato Sack. As they walked out, the place imploded. They saw all of the military vehicles parked outside and tried to run. But not quickly enough! As they got in the vehicle, a ways back they saw a military man starting to chase them. “Floor it!” says Billy. They zoomed off into the night, like a speedy fox. As they zoomed along, the sound of gunfire echoed through the air. “They are shooting at us!” says Billy. They were chased for miles, and more and more Russian vehicles joined the attack. As they were flying over a ridge above the new coastline (formerly Texas), two surface-to-air Costco Wholesale$_{TM}$ missiles came out of a previously unnoticed vehicle. “Watch out!” screamed Billy, and the car went into a spinning dive. One of the missiles flew past the underbelly, barely missing. They were not so lucky with the other missile, however. It struck the right wing, exploding on impact, shredding the whole thing off. The flying car spiraled, then disappeared, smoking, into the woods near a sheer cliff overlooking the water.

Potato Sack stood up and evaluated his surroundings. He was in the upside-down, banged-up cockpit of his and Billy Bob's flying car. Billy Bob! He painfully got up and looked around frantically for Billy Bob. Eventually, he found Billy behind the final row of seats. Shaking the little beagle, he appeared to wake up. Billy groaned, "Potato Sack? Is that you?" "Yes, my friend, it is me. Make haste, move with swiftness, for we must get out of here before they find us." Then, he grabbed the backpack and jammed it uncomfortably around his neck, for cows cannot wear human backpacks. Running out the missing door, he grabbed his and Billy's laser pistols. Then, they looked for a place to hide, to sneak around the Russians. They were inevitably surrounded by them, so the best strategy would be to hide and run away once the Russians moved in past them.

After about an hour of hiding in hastily dug holes, covered with cold mud and leaves, they finally heard voices. The voices slowly drew closer. Then, Billy could *see* a Russian government agent. He appeared to be talking to a second agent. The agents walked slowly, checking the trees and shrubs. Eventually, they were standing *on top* of the big cow's back. After a few heartbeats, they moved on, and the voices and footsteps receded into the distance. They waited for fifteen minutes, then made their move. Getting up and shaking, they started running through the woods in the direction they thought was the edge of the forest. They were running so fast they could barely see anything in front of them. Trees whipped at them, rocks tripped them, and every bush looked like an agent in the dark. As they ran through a clearing, glaring lights snapped onto them. They had been found! There were too many lights in their eyes, but it looked like they were surrounded. "**Drop your weapons!**" said a loud, mechanical voice from a helicopter that was suddenly above them. Wind, noise, and light blinded their senses as they were captured and taken away.

They appeared to be in the back of a van. Two guards looked at them, and they were chained up. They rode in silence, Billy and Potato Sack thinking of the best way to escape. After what seemed like hours but

probably had been as few as a handful of minutes, the door exploded, killing the guards. Suddenly two peculiar creatures broke in and grabbed them. It was some friends they recognized from the lab! There were more, fighting with the soldiers. “Come with us if you want to live,” said the one the friends recognized as Scrubby. Throwing them pistols, Scrubby led the way and the four lab animals ran as fast as they could, toward what Billy thought was the ocean, but he assumed his rescuers had a plan. Unfortunately for them, two helicopters had noticed and were pursuing, firing all the way. One of the rescuers stopped and turned around, pulling a bazooka off his back. He managed to fire it, knocking out one of the helicopters, but even as he did so he was cut down by the other. Potato Sack and Billy kept running, Scrubby leading the way. They came to a clearing by the edge of a cliff, only to find what appeared to be a wrecked helicopter. “Uh oh!” Scrubby gasped. The other helicopter bored in, firing what appeared to be its entire weapons load at Scrubby. He didn’t stand a chance. The helicopter was coming in for another pass, and its weapons were spinning up to fire. Without thinking, Potato Sack picked up Billy and threw him in the water, following after. As they fell into the water, Billy looked at Potato Sack. Then, they hit the water and everything went black.

Billy woke up. He blinked and realized he was underwater! Then, he saw Potato Sack. Looking closer, the big cow appeared to be growing gills! Billy thought he didn’t seem to be running out of breath either. Then, he thought back to the lab. He never remembered their master adding gills, but it could have been done when he was a puppy. Feeling around his neck, he appeared to have gills too. When they reached the floor of the ocean, Billy yelled, “Potato Sack!” “HEY!” came a yell from far away. “Do you have gills?” It asked. “Yes!” Billy exclaimed. “It must have been that scientist! Well, maybe now we can walk to China and start a new life!” “I don't know, but we need to go somewhere. They're going to come down and search for our bodies at some point.” They began to walk into the depths of the ocean. Soon, they began to grow hungry, and as Billy saw a fish go by, he tried to grab it, but it swam away too quickly to grab. A few minutes later, he saw another go by

and he grabbed it. Biting into it, it turned out to be the most delicious fish he had ever eaten. “Now we have food!” he said, “And how do you suppose we cook it?” said Potato Sack. “We’ll figure something out,” Billy said. “I suppose we will,” said Potato Sack. Suddenly, Billy saw something big looming in the distance. “What’s that?” asked Billy curiously. After closer inspection, he thought he knew. “It looks like a house! And a massive one!” said.” Potato Sack. “Well, we will have to find out, I suppose.” The pair swam closer and eventually confirmed that it certainly was a house. It was beautiful and would have cost millions of dollars had it not been at the bottom of the sea. Swimming into the kitchen, they discovered that the inside of the house was incredibly nice, and the TV was still on.

The pair swam up onto a beach and purchased supplies, including waterproofing material and a pump. They purchased an inexpensive boat and used it to get back to their home quickly. As they swam back into it, they attacked the anchor to the mailbox. They waterproofed their new home and used the pump to empty it, and they could now use it like a normal one. They used even more materials to make an airlock, and then they relaxed. They now had a place to stay until they wanted to return to civilization, if ever.